Gurvich's Trial for Theft Postponed Until Sept. 15

S-1 04576

Criminal District Court Judge Frank J. Shea has continued until Sept. 15 the trial of William J. Gurvich, a former chief investigator for District Atty. Jim Garrison, on charges that Gurvich stole property from the DA's office.

In yesterday's court session, Assistant DA James L. Alcock testified that Gurvich was prevented on several occasions from consulting with his attorney while he was being questioned by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, which later indicted him on the theft charge.

Alcock also told the court that at the time of his grand jury apearance in 1967 Gurvich was suspected of an offense. Gurvich, however, said he was not told he was suspected.

GURVICH WAS Garrison's chief investigator during the first months of the DA's investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. He resigned in June, 1967, claiming that Garrison had no evidence in the case.

He appeared before the grand jury on June 28 and July 12, 1967. In March, 1968, he was charged by Garrison with the theft of "property valued at $19" from the DA's office. The property is believed to be a master copy of the Kennedy investigation file.

Alcock told the court yesterday that Richard V. Burnes, then an assistant DA, did not advise Gurvich he had the right to consult with his attorney before answering any grand jury questions.

Alcock also testified that Gurvich was told on several occasions during the first jury hearing that he could not leave the jury room to confer with his lawyer, Edward M. Baldwin.

ALBERT LABICHE, who was grand jury foreman at the time, prevented Gurvich from leaving, said Alcock. However, this came after the witness had already interrupted the hearing at least twice to see his lawyer, Alcock said.

Milton Brener, Gurvich's attorney, has requested the theft charge be quashed. He claims his client's constitutional rights were denied him in that Gurvich was not notified that he was suspected of an offense when he appeared before the grand jury.

Gift of Flowers Backfires on Giver

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Hoping to keep members of the finance and budget committee in a sweet mood to let his department have an extra million dollars, Parks Superintendent Harry Boothman purchased carnations and gave them to alderman at a recent meeting.

They thanked him, then immediately slashed $40,000 from his riverbank beautification project.